

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 03111 191145Z  
ACTION MCT-01

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 H-01 INR-10 IO-13 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 OC-06 CTME-00 PRS-00 SS-15  
USIE-00 USSS-00 SY-05 FAA-00 WRDE-00 NSCE-00  
SSO-00 INRE-00 /102 W  
-----100987 191155Z /23S

Z 191138Z FEB 78 ZFF 4  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 6005  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO FLASH  
AMEMBASSY LONDON FLASH  
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI FLASH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 03111

E.O. LL652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS  
SUBJECT: HIJACKED AIRCRAFT

REF: (A) DJIBOUTI 203; (B) STATE 44088

1. WHILE WE UNDERSTAND FROM WIRE SERVICE THAT HIJACKED AIRCRAFT HAS LEFT DJIBOUTI, FOLLOWING IS OUR RESPONSE TO QUESTION RAISED BY REFTEL A.

2. GSG-9, THE GERMAN UNIT WHICH PERFORMED THE MOGADISCIO RESCUE OPERATION, COULD TAKE OFF WITHIN ONE HOUR OF AN ORDER TO DO SO. WE ESTIMATE A 5-6 HOUR FLIGHT TO DJIBOUTI, PLUS PROBABLE REFUELING STOP EN ROUTE.

3. THE POLITICAL DECISION TO EMPLOY GSG-9 WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT. IT WOULD REQUIRE APPROVAL BY THE CHANCELLOR AND HIS CABINET AND PROBABLY BY THE OPPOSITION LEADERSHIP. WHILE THE GERMANS IF ASKED MIGHT OFFER BEHIND-THE-SCENES ADVICE, OUR ESTIMATE IS THAT THERE IS  
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PAGE 02 BONN 03111 191145Z

ALMOST NO CHANCE THAT THEY WOULD AGREE TO ACT AS PRINCIPALS IN ANY RESCUE OPERATION.

4. IN OUR VIEW THE FRG WOULD HAVE NO DESIRE TO BE CAST IN THE ROLE OF POLICEMAN IN A CASE WHERE THERE ARE NO DIRECT GERMAN INTERESTS INVOLVED. ASIDE FROM QUESTIONS OF WORLD IMAGE, THE PRECEDENT ESTABLISHED WOULD BE

TROUBLESOME. MOREOVER, THE RISK THAT THE OPERATION  
MIGHT FAIL AND THUS TARNISH THE PRESENT IMAGE OF GSG-9  
(THUS LESSENING ITS DETERRENT VALUE) IS ONE THAT WOULD NOT  
BE TAKEN LIGHTLY.

MEEHAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIRCRAFT HIJACKING  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 feb 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978BONN03111  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** DG ALTERED  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780077-0332  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** BONN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780235/aaaabdzt.tel  
**Line Count:** 68  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 051961d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION MCT  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 DJIBOUTI 203, 78 STATE 44088  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3543957  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HIJACKED AIRCRAFT  
**TAGS:** PINS  
**To:** STATE CAIRO  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkvgwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/051961d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
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